



Project Safe Childhood



March, 2008

Southern District of Georgia

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What is Project Safe Childhood?

Project Safe Childhood is a nationwide U.S. Department of Justice initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorney's Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and to rescue victims and to provide local training, educational, and awareness programs.

Case Highlights in Our District

Timothy Green of St. Marys was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Anthony Alaimo in Brunswick to 88 months imprisonment for possession of child pornography, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(a). At the sentencing hearing, the evidence showed Green possessed over 1000 images and 85 videos depicting child pornography. The case was the result of a joint investigation by Detective James Galloway of the Kingsland Police Department, FBI Special Agent Joshua Hayes, and ICE Special Agent Tom West.

Raymond Horsfall of Savannah was sentenced by U.S. District Judge B. Avant Edenfield in U.S. District Court in Savannah to 327 months imprisonment for his conviction for receipt of child pornography, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(a). At the sentencing hearing, the evidence showed Horsfall possessed on his computer at least 1885 images and 59 videos depicting child pornography. An adult relative also testified that when she was a young child, Horsfall sexually abused her repeatedly. Horsfall previously had been convicted of possession of child pornography in 1998 and sent back to prison a second time in 2002 for the same conduct. The case was the result of joint investigation with the Savannah Chatham Metropolitan Police Department, FBI Special Agent Joshua Hayes, and ICE Special Agent Thomas West.

Peter Mitchell, 70, of Savannah, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge B. Avant Edenfield in Savannah to 78 months imprisonment for receipt of child pornography, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(a). During Mitchell's sentencing hearing, the evidence showed he purchased child pornography and possessed hundreds of images and at least 79 videos depicting child pornography. Mitchell is retired and lives in The Landings Community in Savannah. The case was the result of a nationwide investigation by Immigration and Custom Enforcement and ICE Special Agent Thomas West.

U.S. Army Specialist **Ryan Verch**, formerly stationed at Fort Stewart, was sentenced by Chief U.S. District Judge William T. Moore, Jr. in Savannah to 262 months imprisonment for production of child pornography and sexual exploitation of a minor, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2251. During Verch's earlier guilty plea hearing, the evidence showed he took sexually explicit pictures of a minor relative under the age of two and distributed those pictures on the internet. The case was the result of a joint investigation by Special Agent Joshua Hayes of the FBI, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command at Fort Stewart.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

project safe childhood

Protecting Children from Online Exploitation and Abuse



Project Safe Childhood



What can Project Safe Childhood do for you?

- Tough sentences in child pornography and child exploitation cases.
- Coordinate local and federal resources for efficient and thorough use of investigative tools.
- Assist local law enforcement with computer forensics.
- Protect children in your community from online sexual exploitation and abuse.

<http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov/>

Developments in the Law

Traders Using Kazaa May be Charged With Advertising Child Pornography, Subject to 15-Year Mandatory Minimum, Eighth Circuit Hold 8.

Child pornography traders who use the peer-to-peer file sharing program called Kazaa may be charged with advertising child pornography, in violation of 18 USC § 2251(d)(1)(A). The advertising statute, which carries a 15-year mandatory minimum, criminalizes conduct that knowingly makes or causes to be made any notice offering to distribute or reproduce child pornography. Kazaa is a program that connects a computer to other computers to allow users to download each other's shared files. Users use descriptive fields to alert interested users to the content of the downloadable files. A Kazaa user searching for child pornography and its common descriptive terms would be able to search for those terms and download files containing those terms. Based on this conduct, the Eighth Circuit recently held that "placing a file in a shared folder with descriptive text is clearly an offer to distribute the file," in violation of § 2251(d)(1)(A). *United States v. Sewell*, ___ F.3d ___ (8th Cir. 2008). The Eleventh Circuit, which governs the Southern District of Georgia has not ruled on this issue. Nonetheless, law enforcement who encounter Kazaa or similar peer-to-peer file sharing programs in child pornography investigations should be aware of this new potential ground to charge child pornography.

Eleventh Circuit Reverses Probationary Sentence For Possession of Child Pornography.

The Eleventh Circuit recently overturned a probationary sentence for a defendant convicted of possessing child pornography as an abuse of the district court's discretion in sentencing. The defendant downloaded on his computer over a period of several years at least 68 images of child pornography, as well as videos of an adult male raping an infant girl and of a young girl performing oral sex on an adult male. In overturning the sentence, the court explained the probationary sentence "undermine[d] the purpose of general deterrence, and in turn, tend[ed] to increase (in some palpable if immeasurable way) the child pornography market. This problem is compounded not just because of the number of images Pugh downloaded over an extended time frame, but also because Pugh distributed some of the images to others." *United States v. Pugh* ___ F.3d ___ (11th Cir. 2008). The Eleventh Circuit also explained that a probationary sentence did not "reflect any apparent consideration of promoting respect for the law" where images of child pornography "undeniably have a devastating impact on the young victims." Pugh will be a strong tool in our district to stress the importance to judges of tougher sentences in child pornography cases.

FACTOID

Quick facts about child pornography:

- 35 percent of abusers are a parent of child victim.
- 28 percent of abusers are neighbors or trusted family friends.
- 58 percent of child victims are prepubescent.
- 6 percent were infants at the time of the sexual abuse.

~policechiefmagazine.org



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Meet Your Local Law Enforcement: Detective Michael Uritescu

Detective Michael Uritescu is with the Special Victims Unit, Criminal Investigation Division of the Savannah Chatham Police Department. Det. Uritescu has been a member of SCPD for 12 years and of the Special Victims Unit for 5 years. He is a member of the Georgia Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force. Det. Uritescu has significant training in the area of child exploitation and child pornography at the local, state, and federal level. He is IPTM certified in Advanced Sex Crimes Investigation and also participated in Corner House training (to interview children) and Child Abuse and Exploitation Investigative Techniques Training. In December, 2007, Det. Uritescu attended the DOJ National Project Safe Childhood Conference in St. Louis with other law enforcement from the area. Det. Uritescu has worked closely with the United States Attorney's Office in this district to prosecute several federal cases, many of which resulted in significant sentences.

Upcoming Events

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| March 12
9:30 | PSC/SDGA law enforcement meeting at FBI/Savannah Office. Contact Special Agent Josh Hayes at 912-232-3716 . |
| April 13-19 | National Victims Rights Week. Stay tuned for more information about events in our district. |
| April 24
8:30 | PSC featured at Coastal Law Enforcement Officers Association in Savannah. |
| May 11 | National Missing Children's Day. |

Southern District of Georgia



The Southern District comprises the counties of Appling, Atkinson, Bacon, Brantley, Bryan, Bulloch, Burke, Camden, Candler, Charlton, Chatham, Coffee, Columbia, Dodge, Effingham, Emanuel, Evans, Glascock, Glynn, Jeff Davis, Jefferson, Jenkins, Johnson, Laurens, Liberty, Lincoln, Long, McDuffie, McIntosh, Montgomery, Pierce, Richmond, Screven, Taliaferro, Tattnall, Telfair, Toombs, Treutlen, Ware, Warren, Wayne, Wheeler and Wilkes.

For more information please contact: Julie Wade, PSC Coordinator (SDGA) - julie.wade@usdoj.gov



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